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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A water-absorbent resin composition comprising an oxygen-containing reducing inorganic salt and a water-absorbent resin, wherein the iron content in the resin composition is at most 1 ppm.
2. (Original) The water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the oxygen-containing reducing inorganic salt is at least one member selected from the group consisting of sulfites, bisulfites, pyrosulfites, dithionites and nitrites.
3. (Original) The water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amount of the oxygen-containing reducing inorganic salt is 0.01 to 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the water-absorbent resin.
4. (Currently amended) The water-absorbent resin composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, claim 1, further comprising an organic antioxidant.
5. (Original) The water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 4, wherein the organic antioxidant is at least one member selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acids, erythorbic acids, gallic acids, protocatechuic acids, benzimidazoles and alkylated hydroxyanisoles.

6. (Original) The water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the amount of the organic antioxidant is 0.001 to 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the water-absorbent resin.

7. (Currently amended) An absorbent comprising the water-absorbent resin composition as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 and a hydrophilic fiber.

8. (Original) The absorbent according to claim 7, wherein the content of the water-absorbent resin composition in the absorbent is 40 to 95% by weight.

9. (Original) An absorbent article comprising the absorbent as defined in claim 7 or 8 interposed between a liquid-permeable sheet and a liquid-impermeable sheet.